For Immediate Release May 2, 2017

Rep. Spiros Applauds Passage of Broadband Bill

Contact: Representative Spiros

(608) 266-1182

Madison – Today, State Representative John Spiros (R-Marshfield) was excited to vote in favor of expanding internet access to areas in our state that lack adequate service. This bill was introduced as part of the Rural Wisconsin Initiative, a package of legislation authored by rural members of the Assembly, including Rep. Spiros, to improve access to health care, education, jobs, and technology in rural Wisconsin. Assembly Bill 123 will invest an additional \$15.5 million into broadband expansion along with specific parameters for the grant program in order for the money to be allocated to the most underserved areas.

"Assembly Republicans have made broadband expansion a priority as part of the Forward Agenda and I am pleased to see the passage of Assembly Bill 123. This bill will help smaller communities in the rural parts of our state where strong internet connections are needed," said Rep. Spiros.

Assembly Bill 123 will expand technology grants for schools in rural areas for another two years through the Technology Educational Achievement program. This eligibility expansion allows smaller school districts to apply and invests \$7.5 million directly into the school specific grants.

###